

IN THE CLAIMS

A listing of the claims of the present application is as follows:

1. through 30 (Canceled).

31. (New) A method of providing a dynamic alert indication to a user of a signal receiving device, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining context information at the signal receiving device;

storing at least a portion of the context information at the signal receiving device;

forwarding at least a portion of the context information to a context service system located remote from the signal receiving device; and

automatically modifying, based on at least a portion of the context information, an alert indication mode associated with the signal receiving device, wherein the alert indication mode causes an alert indication to be provided to the user of the signal receiving device upon receipt of a signal by the signal receiving device, the alert indication being appropriate to an environment in which the user is presently located;

wherein automated modification of the alert indication mode is effectuated remotely by the context service system or locally by the signal receiving device.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of the context service system causing service provider infrastructure, responsible for sending the signal to the signal receiving device, to be modified consistent with the alert indication mode.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of the context service system making one or more signal transmitting devices aware of the alert indication mode of the signal receiving device.

34. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of the context service system forwarding at least a portion of the context information obtained from the signal receiving device to one or more signal transmitting devices.

35. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of the context service system forwarding at least a portion of the context information obtained from the signal receiving device to one or more context service systems.

36. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of the context service system storing previously-provided information about the user and about one or more signal receiving devices associated with the user for use in automatically modifying the alert indication mode of at least one of the one or more signal receiving devices.

37. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the alert indication mode is at least one of audible and non-audible.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the non-audible mode comprises vibrating the signal receiving device.

39. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the audible mode comprises one or more ring tones.

40. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the alert indication mode is suggested by a sender of the signal.

41. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising the steps of the context service system making available at least a portion of the context information to one or more other users of the

context service system, receiving an alert indication mode from one of the one or more other users of the context service system, and forwarding the alert indication mode to the signal receiving device.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein a user of the context service system is a program or an explicit or implicit user.

43. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of evaluating the signal to determine its relative importance based on content of the signal.

44. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the signal receiving device comprises one of a cellular telephone, personal digital assistant, and a pager.

45. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the automated modification step may determine that no mode of alert indication may be utilized by the signal receiving device while within the environment.

46. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of blocking signals to and from the signal receiving device while within the environment.

47. (New) A signal receiving device, comprising:

a memory; and

a processor coupled to the memory and operative to: (i) obtain context information; (ii) store at least a portion of the context information; (iii) forward at least a portion of the context information to a context service system located remote from the signal receiving device;

wherein, based on at least a portion of the context information, an alert indication mode associated with the signal receiving device is automatically modified, wherein the alert indication mode causes an alert indication to be provided to the user of the signal receiving device upon receipt of a signal by the signal receiving device, the alert indication being appropriate to an environment in which the user is presently located;

further wherein automated modification of the alert indication mode is effectuated remotely by the context service system or locally by the signal receiving device.

48. (New) A context service server, comprising:

a memory; and

a processor coupled to the memory and operative to: (i) obtain context information associated with a signal receiving device; (ii) store at least a portion of the context information; (iii) forward at least a portion of the context information to one or more signal transmitting devices;

wherein, based on at least a portion of the context information, an alert indication mode associated with the signal receiving device is automatically modified, wherein the alert indication mode causes an alert indication to be provided to a user of the signal receiving device upon receipt of a signal by the signal receiving device from one of the signal transmitting devices, the alert indication being appropriate to an environment in which the user is presently located;

further wherein automated modification of the alert indication mode is effectuated remotely by the context service server or locally by the signal receiving device.

49. (New) A method of providing a dynamic alert indication to a user of a signal receiving device, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining context information from a context service located remote from the signal receiving device;

storing at least a portion of the context information at the signal receiving device; and

automatically modifying, based on at least a portion of the context information, an alert indication mode associated with the signal receiving device, wherein the alert indication mode causes an alert indication to be provided to the user of the signal receiving device upon receipt of a signal by the signal receiving device, the alert indication being appropriate to an environment in which the user is presently located;

wherein automated modification of the alert indication mode is effectuated remotely by the context service system or locally by the signal receiving device.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of the context service system causing service provider infrastructure, responsible for sending the signal to the signal receiving device, to be modified consistent with the alert indication mode.

51. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of the context service system forwarding at least a portion of the context information to one or more signal transmitting devices.

52. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of the context service system forwarding at least a portion of the context information to one or more context service systems.

53. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of the context service system storing previously-provided information about the user and about one or more signal receiving devices associated with the user for use in automatically modifying the alert indication mode of at least one of the one or more signal receiving devices.

54. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the alert indication mode is at least one of audible and non-audible.

55. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the non-audible mode comprises vibrating the signal receiving device.

56. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the audible mode comprises one or more ring tones.

57. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the alert indication mode is suggested by a sender of the signal.

58. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising the steps of the context service system making available at least a portion of the context information to one or more other users of the context service system, receiving an alert indication mode from one of the one or more other users of the context service system, and forwarding the alert indication mode to the signal receiving device.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein a user of the context service system is a program or an explicit or implicit user.

60. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of evaluating the signal to determine its relative importance based on content of the signal.

61. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the signal receiving device comprises one of a cellular telephone, personal digital assistant, and a pager.

62. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the automated modification step may determine that no mode of alert indication may be utilized by the signal receiving device while within the environment.

63. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising the step of blocking signals to and from the signal receiving device while within the environment.